

2008 Annual Report

Huntingdon County Planning Commission

March 2009

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission to develop and implement a positive vision for Huntingdon County; one that reflects economic prosperity, a rural and small-town atmosphere, protection of natural resources, centers-focused development, greenway corridors, improved highway and communication access and a high standard of excellence in both personal and community development.

NEW VOLUNTEER CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAM

Eleven Huntingdon County municipalities are participating in an innovative curbside recycling program sponsored by the Huntingdon County Commissioners. This program offers curbside recycling for mixed recyclables on a voluntary basis. The program, supported by Parks Garbage and Quarry Sanitation, offers curbside recycling to households without regard to their garbage service. With the support of these businesses, 2,400 bright yellow 32-gallon recycling containers were purchased.

The quantity of recyclables collected during 2008 is an impressive 95.21 tons. Over 50% of this total was generated in two municipalities, Mount Union Borough and Walker Township. The other participating municipalities include: Mapleton, Petersburg, Alexandria, Mill Creek, Orbisonia, Rockhill, Saltillo and Three Springs Boroughs and Porter Township. These collection results reflect approximately a six-month period.

The municipalities have been asked to adopt a resolution pledging support, an ordinance banning the burning of recyclables collected in the program and an ordinance requiring all community residents to have a garbage hauler. According to Lou Ann Shontz, Recycling Coordinator, municipalities have been very cooperative.

In a survey of Mount Union residents, conducted to test the potential response to the program, only 36% indicated that they presently recycle. However, 92% indicated that they would use the curbside program if it were implemented.

The following materials are collected through the voluntary recycling program: glass bottles and jars, newspapers, magazines and miscellaneous paper, plastic bottles, aluminum beverage cans, steel and bi-metal cans, cardboard and paperboard.

Inside this issue:

<i>Agency Organization and Management</i>	2
<i>Work Program</i>	2
<i>Public Education and Information</i>	4
<i>Municipal Planning and Development Assistance</i>	5
<i>Coordination</i>	6
<i>County-Municipal Project Review</i>	7
<i>Federal-State Project Review</i>	7
<i>Subdivision and Land Development Reviews</i>	8
<i>County Planning and Development Assistance</i>	10
<i>911 and Rural Addressing</i>	11
<i>CDBG Three Year Plan</i>	12
<i>Subdivision Activity</i>	13
<i>Deed Transfers</i>	14
<i>Building Activity</i>	14
<i>Seasonal and Year-Round Housing</i>	15

AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Huntingdon County Commissioners created the Huntingdon County Planning Commission in 1962 and hired the first planning director in 1971. The County Commissioners have directed the Planning Commission to prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan to guide growth and development in the County and to promote public interest in and understanding of planning and the *Comprehensive Plan*. Volunteers, staff, money and equipment are the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Huntingdon County Planning Commission.

STAFFING

The Planning and Development Department is headed by Richard Stahl, AICP, Planning Director. In addition to the Planning Director, the 2008 staff included Planner/Grant Administrator, Maureen Safko; Bookkeeper, Peggy Wilson; and Secretary, Laurie Nearhood. Daniel Claybaugh, a Grove City College English Major; and April Shaffer, a Career Link WIA participant, assisted Department staff during 2008.

During 2008, major conferences included the Pennsylvania Planning Association Annual Conference, the Community Development and Housing Practitioners Annual Conference, CDBG Compliance Training and Emergency Shelter Grant Training.

2009 WORK PROGRAM

County Assistance

Planning and Development staff will continue to assist the Board of Commissioners with managing projects such as office expansion, deployment of broadband, and information technology.

Municipal Waste Management Plan

Development of a revised solid waste management plan for Bedford, Fulton and Huntingdon Counties has not yet been completed. DEP funding for the Plan update has been approved. Work on the Plan had been started by Gannett Fleming in 2004 but left incomplete. Work remaining in 2009 includes: Completion of the Draft Municipal Waste Management Plan, Solid Waste Advisory Committee review, Solid Waste Landfill Agreements, Municipal Adoption and DEP Plan Approval. These activities will be completed by December 2009.

Community Development

Staff expects to focus on obtaining additional discretionary grant funding for County projects in 2009, including applications for Neighborhood Stabilization Grant funds for addressing vacant and foreclosed houses; Emergency Shelter Grant funds and CDBG Competitive funds for priority water and sewer projects. Work will involve the additional responsibilities of administering the Smithfield Township CDBG Program.

Municipal Assistance

Assistance in obtaining funding and in developing comprehensive plans and ordinances is expected in 2009. It is expected that staff will customize model ordinances to meet municipal needs.

Greenway Implementation

The staff will be looking for projects that implement the "Southern Alleghenies Open Space Network and Greenway Plan" during 2009. Work may include detailed planning for park, recreation and greenway development as well as grant assistance for construction.

Community Improvement Awards

In order to promote excellence in design, the Huntingdon County Planning Commission partnered with the Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce in establishing several Community Improvement Awards. Kish Bank provided financial support for the 2007 Community Improvement Awards.

The third annual awards were presented at the Planning Commission's Annual Meeting on March 12, 2008. Recipients of the 2007 awards were the Iron Rail Bed and Breakfast in the Commercial Category, St. James Lutheran Church in the Public/Non-profit Category, and Huntingdon Farm in the Residential Category.

The Iron Rail Bed and Breakfast in Rockhill, built for former East Broad Top Railroad General Manager Alfred Greenwood, was renovated and opened for business in May 2007.

Huntingdon's 1911 St. James Lutheran Church, severely damaged by fire in 2004, was rebuilt using stained glass windows from the previous building and featuring varying roof lines, a brick exterior, energy saving devices and a buried stormwater detention system.

Huntingdon Farm, in Porter Township, is a model for environmental stewardship. The Farm features a solar powered livestock watering system, a 10 kw wind turbine, a LEED certified office addition and a recycled log cabin.

FINANCIAL REPORT

During 2008, the operation of the Department was funded through the County General Fund (\$127,105.00) and through several state and federal government grant programs (\$88,413.00).

The 2009 General Fund budget decreased by 11.8% from 2008; and the 2009 budget for Grants and Special Projects increased by 2.3%. Overall, the 2009 budget is 6.4% lower than it was in 2008, largely due to the creation of the County Mapping Department.

General Fund Budget Report

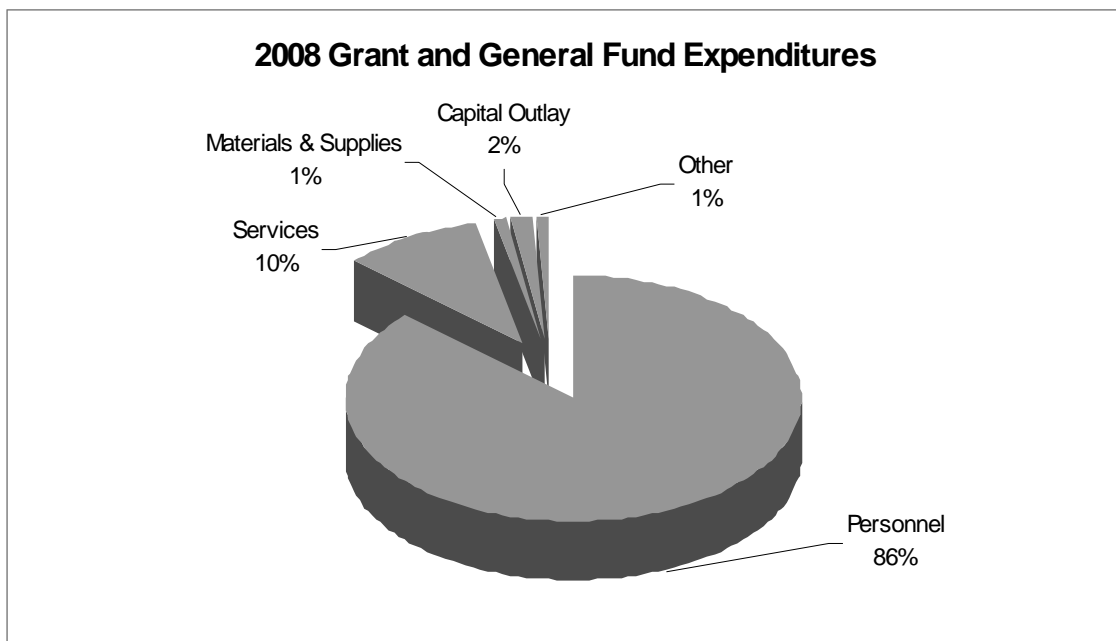
Grants and Special Projects Budget Report *

	2008 Budget	2008 Expenditures	2009 Budget		2008 Budget	2008 Expenditures	2009 Budget
Personnel	\$104,795.00	\$89,345.14	\$86,796.00	Personnel	\$71,313.00	\$71,700.18	\$76,314.00
Services	\$15,450.00	\$16,894.95	\$18,407.00	Services	\$3,650.00	\$1,840.41	\$2,250.00
Materials & Supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,537.25	\$1,500.00	Materials & Supplies	\$450.00	\$147.10	\$450.00
Capital Outlay	\$5,360.00	\$3,106.32	\$5,360.00	Other	\$13,000.00	\$1,389.89	\$11,500.00
Total	\$127,105.00	\$110,883.66	\$112,063.00	Total	\$88,413.00	\$75,077.58	\$90,514.00

Grant & General Fund Totals

*Grants and Special Projects include Community Development Block Grant funds used for administrative purposes.

2008 Budget	2008 Expenditures	2009 Budget
\$215,518.00	\$185,961.24	\$202,577.00



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

It is a goal of the Planning Commission to provide information to the public concerning planning and development issues as well as local trends in growth and development. Staff fulfills this responsibility through the various methods listed below.

HUNTINGDONCOUNTY.NET

Planning and Development staff continued to maintain the County web site with the support of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP), including creation of a calendar for Courthouse activities and links for election results.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Planning Director spoke to a variety of organizations in 2008:

- ⇒ made a presentation to the Huntingdon Lions Club on infrastructure issues;
- ⇒ gave a planning presentation to a Juniata College Environmental Science class at the Raystown Field Station;
- ⇒ spoke to the Huntingdon County Builders Association about land use issues;
- ⇒ gave a "Local Government and Planning" presentation to a Leadership Huntingdon County Class, along with Ken Myers, Huntingdon Borough Manager; and
- ⇒ attended the annual Township Convention, providing information on planning topics.

Planning and Mapping staff hosted a booth at the Raystown Home and Garden Show to present planning and mapping activities and to answer questions about both topics.

The Recycling Coordinator gave "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" presentations at several school districts, senior centers, and health fairs; and distributed recycling

information at the Huntingdon County Fair and Huntingdon Borough's May Fest and Healthy Harvest Festival.

Department staff promoted and coordinated an Innovative Funding webcast sponsored by the American Public Water Association for municipal water and sewer authorities. Representatives from 13 municipalities or municipal authorities attended.

WALK-IN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The Department receives an average of four inquiries per day concerning:

- ⇒ Municipal Contacts and Ordinances
- ⇒ Census Data
- ⇒ Flood Plain Data
- ⇒ Planning Studies
- ⇒ Grant Availability
- ⇒ Recycling Information
- ⇒ County and Municipal Maps

Most of these requests came from municipal officials, realtors, professional market analysts, residents of Huntingdon County, and those interested in relocating to Huntingdon County.

PUBLICATIONS

In 2008, the Planning and Development Department published the *2007 HCPC Annual Report*, the *2008 Huntingdon County Land Development Guide*, the revised Huntingdon County Subdivision Review Policy, and the County's new Subdivision and Land Development Application.

PLANNING WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

The Planning and Development Department organized two successful workshops for municipal officials last fall, working in cooperation with various state and local agencies.

According to Planning Director Richard Stahl, workshops on a variety of planning and development topics need to be repeated on a regular basis, in part, due to the turnover of elected officials. Local officials have a tremendous responsibility for enforcement of local ordinances such as subdivision and land development, floodplain and zoning. Failure to adhere to legal guidelines could make the ordinances ineffective or lead to litigation.

The Subdivision and Land Development Workshop, held September 24, 2008, had 65 attendees. Presenters included Richard Stahl, Planning Director; Brian Young, Mapping Director; Doug Stiffler, Conservation District; and Rick Barrett, Pennsylvania DEP. The workshop covered the following topics: Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code, Subdivision Review Procedures and Stormwater Management.

The Floodplain Workshop, held October 22, 2008, had 35 attendees. Speakers included Richard Stahl, Planning Director; Bill Zett, Pennsylvania DEP; and Andy Patterson, Conservation District. The Floodplain Workshop covered the Pennsylvania Floodplain Management Act, the National Flood Insurance Program, Section 102 Earth Disturbance Permits, Section 105 Stream Encroachment Permits and the Model Development Permit Ordinance.

In order to encourage attendance, the registration fee was held to \$10 per person. Several Planning Commission members assisted staff with setup and registration. Both workshops were held at the Juniata Valley Elementary School.

MUNICIPAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

With the approval of the Huntingdon County Commissioners, the Planning and Development Department may provide assistance to municipalities upon request. Such requests typically involve development of subdivision, zoning and building permit ordinances; preparation and administration of grant applications; requests for proposals for professional services; and various planning studies.

MUNICIPAL ASSISTANCE

Dublin Township - At the Township's request, Staff provided a model Driveway Permit Ordinance and a draft Subdivision and Land Development Ordinance for consideration.

Huntingdon Borough - Staff attended meetings of the Boom Town Committee to participate in the development of a strategic vision.

Alexandria, Huntingdon, Mapleton and Mount Union Boroughs - Staff coordinated a visit by DCNR and DCED staff to review greenway and community development projects.

Mapleton Borough - Staff assisted with development of a plan to address vacant and dilapidated housing in the

Borough and led a tour with Borough Officials and representatives of Habitat for Humanity to evaluate several possible housing sites.

Mapleton and Mount Union

Boroughs - Staff prepared a Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant Application to address foreclosed homes in these Boroughs.

Penn Township - Staff continued to assist with the Penn-Walker Wastewater Interconnection Project, awarding a construction contract in the amount of \$466,640.

Shirley Township - Staff met with the Township Planning Commission to review comments on a draft subdivision and land development ordinance, and met with Township staff to present a database to assist with managing on-lot sewage pumping.

Springfield Township - Staff submitted a Penn STEP application to Southern Alleghenies for Anderson Hollow Road and secured financial contributions from the Township and two farms for the project.

Todd Township - Staff facilitated a meeting between a developer and the

Supervisors to resolve issues with a proposed subdivision.

All Municipalities - Staff surveyed municipal officials to update a municipal contact database; provided an opportunity for participation in the County's CDBG Entitlement Program; and requested financial support for a PA Council on the Arts Local Government Grant.

GRANT ASSISTANCE

The Department assists municipalities and non-profit organizations in meeting community development needs by applying for and administering various state and federal grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Entitlement Program.

Substantially completed activities in 2008 included: walking paths in Smithfield Township's Riverside Park, access road paving at the Smithfield Town Center pump station, drilling of wells for Broad Top City Borough, water and sewer laterals in Brady Township, and reconstruction of the Orbisonia-Rockhill Homecoming Grounds Stage.

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FOR PARK PROJECTS

Planning and Development staff assisted several municipalities with park projects during 2008, Broad Top City Community Park, Mt. Union Riverside Park, Mapleton Riverside Park, Smithfield Riverside Park and Broad Top City Community Park. The Mt. Union, Mapleton and Smithfield Parks are part of the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Greenway.

The Greater Broad Top Area Park and Recreation Association organized in 2002 to develop a community park in Broad Top City Borough. Broad Top volunteers negotiated the purchase of 3.1 acres from the East Broad Top Railroad in October 2004 and applied for DCNR funds for the purchase. After the County Commissioners allocated \$40,000 in County Environmental Initiative funds in 2007, Planning and Development staff assisted the Association in working with DCNR to develop a grant application. The Association used donated materials and services to match the grant for a \$60,000 total project. Improvements include a picnic pavilion, paved basketball court and 2,000 foot walking path. This project was completed in the fall of 2008.

Planning staff revised and submitted an application for \$120,000 from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission for enhancements to Mt. Union's Riverside Park. Fish and Boat funds will be used to match a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in the amount of \$40,000 to improve Riverside Park. The Huntingdon County Commissioners allocated the DCNR funds from the County Environmental Initiative. A local in-kind contribution of \$10,000 brings the total budget to \$170,000. Proposed improvements include a picnic pavilion, 1,800 feet of walking paths, a single lane concrete boat launch, a gravel parking area and various grills and benches.

Planning and Development staff joined with the Juniata Clean Water Partnership in assisting Mapleton Borough with DCNR funding for Riverside Park, obtaining \$22,450 in County Environmental Initiative funds. The first phase of proposed improvements include walking paths, a parking lot and new backstop. Mapleton Borough envisions the renewed park as a magnet for hikers and boaters. The second phase will include boat launch improvements, a new pavilion, pedestrian bridge and restroom. Riverside Park is located on the Standing Stone Trail and is close to popular 1,000 Steps.

Smithfield Township has used Community Development Block Grant funds, administered by Planning and Development, to complete 1,300 feet of paved handicap accessible paths in Riverside Park, adding to the two pavilions, playground, pedestrian bridge and boat launch constructed over the past twenty years by the Township.

COORDINATION

Coordinating the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan*, with public and private organizations, is achieved through the following four processes: Agency Liaison, County-Municipal Project Review, Federal-State Project Review and Subdivision and Land Development Review.

AGENCY LIAISON

The Planning Commission and its staff coordinate the implementation of planning recommendations with many agencies and units of government. This includes staff participation in many committees and attendance at numerous meetings.

Agricultural Land Preservation Board

The Planning Director serves on the Agricultural Land Preservation Board as an appointee of the County Commissioners. Planning staff works closely with the staff of the Huntingdon County Conservation District who administer the program.

The Board has purchased conservation easements totaling 407 acres on four farms, two in Brady Township and two in Warriors Mark Township.

Huntingdon County Chamber of Commerce

During the year, staff coordinated efforts to develop a new Huntingdon County Transportation Map with a Chamber Committee. The County Commissioners authorized major financial support for the new map and the Department coordinated provision of base maps from the County GIS.

The Planning Director participates in the Chamber's Main Street and Technology Committees.

County Planning Directors Association

The Planning Director serves as secretary for the County Planning Directors Association, an affiliate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania. The CPDAP provides input on state policy on environmental and land use issues to both the County Commissioners of Pennsylvania and to the Commonwealth.

Boomtown Committee

The Planning Director serves on the Boomtown Committee, organized and chaired by Huntingdon Mayor Foster Ulrich. This Committee, given the task of developing a community vision for the Huntingdon Area, has become known as the Boomtown Committee.

The Committee was formed to implement a strategy to make Huntingdon a 'boomtown.' Jack Schultz, author of "Boomtown USA, the 7 1/2 keys to Success," spoke in Huntingdon in the spring of 2007 encouraging the community to become a successful community - or boomtown.

Southern Alleghenies Planning and Development Commission (SAPDC)

The Planning Director represents the County on several Southern Alleghenies committees: Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) and Transportation Technical Committee (TTC). The County Commissioners sit on the Executive Committee.

The TTC plays a key role in development of the Transportation Improvement Program.

Juniata College Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership (JCEL)

Staff works closely with JCEL to implement the *Huntingdon County Economic Development Strategy*.

JCEL serves as Enterprise Zone Coordinator for the County Commissioners and serves as staff for HCB&I. The Planning Director serves as liaison between the Commissioners and JCEL.

Juniata College has taken a proactive approach to business and community development through JCEL partnering with the Huntingdon County Commissioners and HCB&I.

Huntingdon County Business and Industry (HCB&I)

The Planning Director serves on the HCB&I Infrastructure Committee. One of the principle goals of the Infrastructure Committee is the physical development of the Riverview Business Center.

Huntingdon County Heritage Committee

The Planning Director chaired the Huntingdon County Heritage Committee. In this role he assisted in setting Committee goals, in securing a summer intern and in advancing the implementation of the *Huntingdon County Heritage Plan* in cooperation with the Huntingdon County Historical Society. Tim Stapleton served as Heritage Intern.

COUNTY-MUNICIPAL PROJECT REVIEW

Section 303 of the PA Municipalities Planning Code (Act 247) gives the Planning Commission the authority to review and comment on various public facility projects, zoning, subdivision and other land development ordinances. In addition, Acts 67 & 68 of 2000 provide an opportunity for local municipalities and counties to comment on the consistency of state funded projects with county and municipal planning and zoning.

Local government and state agencies submitted 33 projects to the Commission for review and comment in 2008, including 1 municipal Act 537 Plan, 3 DCNR grant applications, 2 County Comprehensive Plan consistency requests, 1 Pennsylvania Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program request, 1 Section 106 Review; and 25 DEP permit requests:

1. Logan Township Act 537 Plan
2. SR 0453 Widening and Truck Climbing Lane, DEP NPDES Permit, Morris Township
3. Construction activities at Westminster Woods, DEP NPDES Permit, Huntingdon Borough
4. Bridge Elimination and Road Construction, DEP Water Obstruction Permit, Dublin Township
5. Mount Union JR/SR High School Improvements, DEP NPDES Permit, Mount Union Borough
6. SR 1010 Bridge Replacement, DEP General Permit, Huntingdon Borough
7. Sewage Planning Module (system for 12 units), DEP Approval, Spruce Creek Township
8. Acid Mine Drainage, Stormwater and Wetland Encroachment, Green Garden Road, Carbon Township
9. Sill Business Incubator Expansion, \$1.25 million Pennsylvania Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program Application, Huntingdon Borough
10. Bridge Repairs, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application, Cromwell and Springfield Townships
11. Public Water Supply from Existing Groundwater Well, DEP Public Water Supply Permit, Jackson Township
12. Wastewater Interconnection Project, DEP NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit, Penn and Walker Townships
13. Bridge Maintenance, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application, Clay, Jackson and Tell Townships
14. Colerain Fish Habitat Improvement, DEP Water Obstruction Permit, Franklin Township
15. Maintenance Facility Construction/Improvements, DEP NPDES and GP-7 Permit Application, Walker Township
16. Bridge Repair, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application, Lincoln Township Review
17. Sewage Treatment, DEP NPDES Permit Renewal, Porter Township
18. Juniata Country Cabins, DEP NPDES Permit Application, Lincoln Township
19. Alexandria Borough Water Authority Water Treatment Facility, DEP NPDES Permit Renewal, Porter Township
20. Smithfield Commercial Park (Parcel B), DEP NPDES Permit Application, Smithfield Township
21. Riverside Park Improvements, DCNR Grant Application, Mapleton Borough
22. Shaver's Creek Environmental Center Outdoor Classroom, DCNR Grant Application, Barree Township
23. Juniata Valley Junior-Senior High School, DEP NPDES Permit Application, Porter Township
24. Biddle Family Partnership, DEP NPDES Permit Application, Todd Township
25. Tyrone Blacktop Plant, DEP Air Quality Permit Modification, Warriors Mark Township
26. Alfarata Bridge Rehabilitation, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application, Morris and Porter Townships
27. Culvert Replacements, DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application, Shirley and Todd Townships
28. Shoup Run, Green Garden Road AMD Treatment System, DEP Water Obstruction, Wetland Encroachment and NPDES Permit Application and US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit Application, Carbon Township -
29. Canal Playground Pavilion, DCNR Grant Application, Alexandria Borough
30. Trout Habitat Improvement Structures, DEP and US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit, Franklin Township
31. Various PennDOT Bridges, bridge maintenance activities - DEP Water Obstruction Permit Application
32. Neff Bridge, Section 106 Review, Porter Township
33. Turnpike Commission Bridge Elimination (B-548 and B-560), Dublin Township

Additionally, Act 14 requires those applying for water obstruction permits, water quality permits, or air quality permits to notify County Commissioners and municipal officials of all requests for state permits. The Commission received 49 state permit activity notices in 2008.

FEDERAL-STATE PROJECT REVIEW

The Planning Commission reviews projects that use federal funds for consistency with the County Comprehensive Plan, under the authority of Executive Order #12372.

Under the State-based Intergovernmental Review Process (IRP), the Commission reviewed the following 24 projects in 2008:

1. DEP, State Energy Program Formula Grant, \$6,342,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
2. DEP, State Clean Diesel Grant/Emissions Reduction, \$750,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
3. DEP, PA Brownfield State Response Program, \$850,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
4. DEP, Defense State Memorandum of Agreement, \$599,230.96 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
5. DEP, State Clean Diesel Grant, \$590,640 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
6. DEP, Water Protection Coordination Grants to States, \$1,045,970 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008 - 2012)
7. DEP, Lake Erie LaMP Nutrient Management Strategy, \$30,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008 - 2010)
8. DEP, PA Public Water System Supervision Program, \$10,985,600 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009-2010)
9. DEP, State Indoor Radon Grant, \$459,602 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
10. DEP, OECA Multi-Media Grant, \$200,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2009)
11. DEP, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, \$32,344.714 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
12. DEP, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, \$39,585.240 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
13. DEP, PM 2.5 Monitoring Network, \$1,189,106 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
14. DEP, WPC Section 106 Monitoring Initiative, \$169,900 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
15. DEP, Chesapeake Bay Program, \$2,287,000 EPA Grant Application
16. Chesapeake Bay Commission, \$40,000 EPA Grant Application (\$138,000 total cost), development of policy and action steps to achieve nutrient reductions from the production of cellulosic biofuels
17. PENNVEST, EPA Revolving Fund Grant Applications (\$50,847,912 Clean Water and \$33,262,800

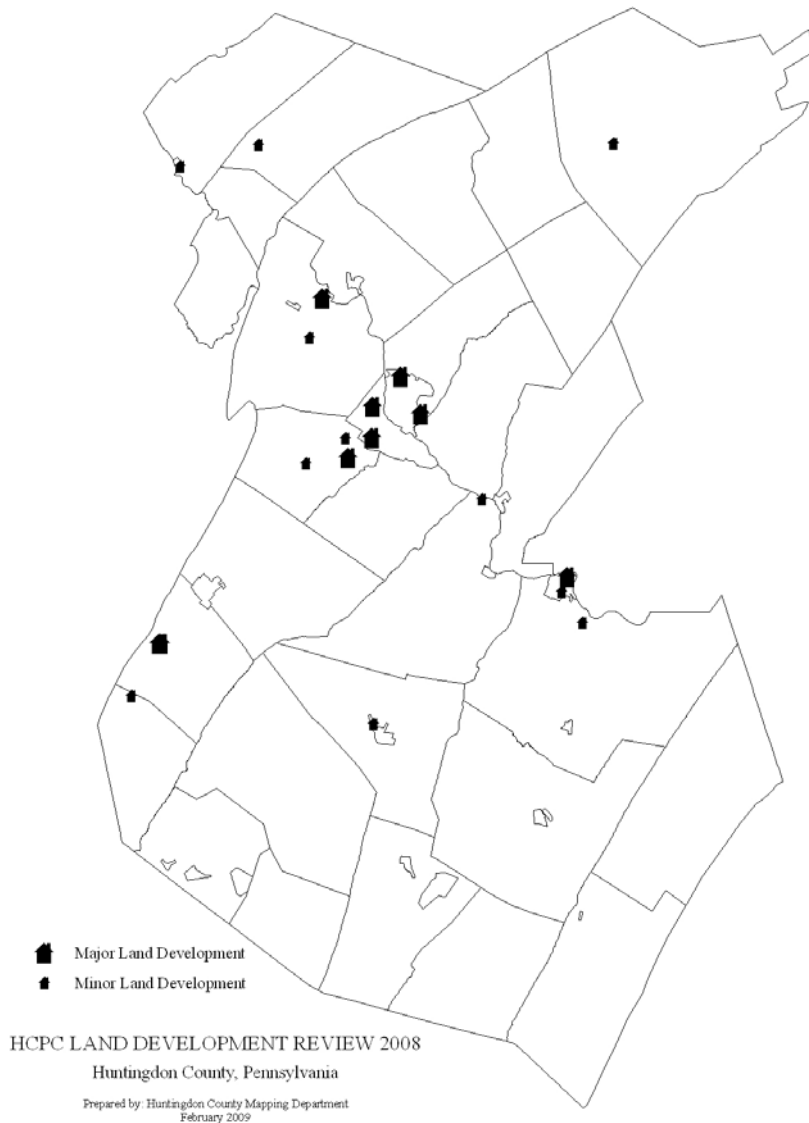
- Drinking Water Capitalization Grants)
18. DEP Air Pollution Control (105) PPG, \$12,752,432 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008 - 2010)
19. DEP Hazardous Waste Management Program PPG (RCRA), \$14,100,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008 - 2010)
20. DEP Water Pollution Control PPG, \$5,776,100 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
21. DEP Investigating Potential Causes of Fish Tumors, \$64,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
22. DEP Water Quality Management Planning, \$506,102 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)

23. DEP Nonpoint Source Implementation 319(h), \$5,663,000 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)
24. DEP Mine Safety & Health Administration (MSHA), \$515,061 EPA Grant Application (FFY 2008)

SUBDIVISION AND LAND DEVELOPMENT REVIEWS

Section 502 of the PA *Municipalities Planning Code* gives the Planning Commission authority to review and comment on subdivision and land development proposals submitted to local





- the Charles Campbell Subdivision with 112 acres and 14 lots in Hopewell Township.

The 10 major land development reviews conducted in 2008 included:

- Westminster Woods (Tracts 6 and 8), Huntingdon Borough - construction of 24 cottages and cul-de-sac;
- Roger Christoff, Huntingdon Borough - construction of a six unit residential building, parking and an access drive;
- Juniata Country Cabins, Lincoln Township - construction of 7 cabins, office building, storage shed and trailer parking;
- Mount Union Junior/Senior High School, Mount Union Borough - additions and renovations to existing building;
- Juniata Valley Junior/Senior High School, Porter Township - building additions and revisions to parking layout;
- Stryker Brigade Combat Team Readiness Center, Smithfield Township - construction of a 29,300 square foot building;
- Daily News Print Shop, Smithfield Township - construction of a 6,000 square foot building addition;
- Spring Ridge Club, Spruce Creek Township - construction of 27 residential structures (12 private; 15 club owned) and a 5,000 square foot clubhouse;
- Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Walker Township - construction of a 12,000 square foot truck garage, pole storage area, outdoor storage area, and expanded employee parking; and
- Huntingdon County Housing Authority, Mount Union Borough - Chestnut Terrace building additions, apartment and sidewalk modifications; and Hartman Village building additions and ADA parking.

municipalities. The Commission also comments on consistency with Act 537, the PA Sewage Facilities Act.

The Commission reviewed 108 subdivisions in 30 municipalities in 2008, down by 19 since 2007. These included 8 major subdivisions, 79 minor subdivisions, 10 major land developments, and 11 minor land developments encompassing 316 lots and 1,545.5 acres. Maps illustrating distribution of these proposals are located on pages 8 and 9.

The largest subdivisions reviewed in 2008 were:

- the Emily Estates Sewage Module with 86.496 acres and 32 lots in Morris Township;
- the Gillbrook Farms I Final Subdivision Plan with 137.21 acres and 57 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Gillbrook Farms II Final Subdivision Plan with 31.40 acres and 17 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Gillbrook Farms III Final Subdivision Plan with 83.03 acres and 39 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Arbutus Final Subdivision Plan with 34 acres and 18 lots in Warriors Mark Township;
- the Spring Ridge Club Final Subdivision with 128.627 acres and 13 lots in Spruce Creek Township; and

SMITHFIELD CONTRACTS WITH COUNTY FOR CDBG ADMINISTRATION

Smithfield Township and Huntingdon County renewed a relationship of municipal assistance in March of 2008 by entering into an agreement for Community Development Block Grant Program administration.

During 2008, Planning and Development Department staff assisted Smithfield Township with the expenditure of approximately \$210,000 in CDBG funds that the Township had invested in four activities. Accessibility of Riverside Park was improved through the construction of a paved walking path. The path provides an ADA compliant route from the sidewalk at Fourth Street to the gazebo at the northern end of the park, completing connections to many of the park's amenities. A second paving project improved an access road to the Smithfield Town Center wastewater pump station. Huntingdon County Housing Services rehabilitated one owner occupied house with CDBG funds. Smithfield Township also contributed CDBG funds toward owner occupied housing rehabilitation and toward the rehabilitation of a ramp at the Shirley Home for the Aged, a project of countywide benefit.

Planning and Development Department staff assists Smithfield Township in administering CDBG, completing grant applications, environmental reviews, and income surveys; providing financial record keeping and reporting requirements; coordinating implementation details with the Township's engineer and staff; and federal legislation and regulation compliance.

Smithfield Township is one of three designated "CDBG Entitlement Communities" in Huntingdon County under PA Act 179, in addition to Huntingdon Borough and Huntingdon County, that receives an annual allocation of Community Development Block Grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, through the PA Department of Community and Economic Development. Smithfield Township receives approximately \$110,000 per year for locally selected projects.

COUNTY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Many Department activities are Countywide in nature and benefit all municipalities equally. Some activities are done to assist the County Commissioners in non-planning areas. Major Planning projects in 2008 included:

LEADERSHIP HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Leadership Huntingdon County was developed as a result of the PEP Strategic Plan to develop leaders and support a positive vision for the County. The Planning Director is a member of the Leadership Steering Committee and manages the finances for the program.



PARTNERSHIP FOR ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The Planning Director and Secretary continued to provide support to the Partnership for Economic Progress (PEP) during the year. The County Commissioners chair this committee.

According to the PEP Strategic Plan: *"It is the vision of the Huntingdon County Partnership for Economic Progress to improve the economic health and the quality of life of Huntingdon County residents by fostering and enhancing community education and innovation, agency communication and coordination and promotion of a positive image of the County."*

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANT

In cooperation with the Huntingdon County Arts Council, the Department administered a \$3,495 Local Government Grant for art activities in 2008. Matching grant contributions were made by the County and many municipalities for a \$6,990 program.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Planning and Development Department continued to play a role in developing the County's information technology infrastructure, serving on the IT Committee, coordinating efforts to connect County buildings with a fiber optic network and maintaining the County's website.

For the second time, election results were posted to the website. County IT consultant, Travis Cramer uploaded the most recent election results once or twice per hour allowing the public to see the most current election results available. Assistance was also given to the Huntingdon County Sheriff's Office to enable a student intern to post new content.

RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE

The Recycling Coordinator provides educational programs for all Huntingdon County Schools and major events that occur within Huntingdon County.

An electronics recycling program, started in 2007 in cooperation with New Age Consulting (NAC), continued to allow residents to drop off computers and other electronic items at NAC in Smithfield Township at any time for a small fee. In 2008, SKILLS agreed to allow residents to drop off electronics at their S. 5th Street office in Smithfield Township free of charge.

During 2008, the Recycling Coordinator prepared several reports and grant applications: the County's Solid Waste Annual Report, a DEP 903 Grant for Recycling Coordinator expenses, a 902 Grant for new recycling equipment, and a DEP 904 Grant for materials that were recycled in 2007 through the Bedford-Fulton-Huntingdon County Recycling Program.

The Tri-County recycling program marketed 554.53 tons of recyclables with only 4% contamination. Huntingdon County sites collected 247.92 tons, 45% of the total.

Querry Sanitation worked closely with the Recycling Coordinator at special events throughout the County to collect a total of 4,720 pounds.

County residents continued to strongly support the collection of Household Hazardous Waste, with the Fall collection bringing 5,209 pounds, including 41 auto batteries.

In addition to these activities, 9.38 tons of office paper was recycled from various County offices.

The Recycling Coordinator continues to be an active member of the Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania (PROP), serving on their Educational Committee; and is an active member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Huntingdon County Chapter of PA Cleanways.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

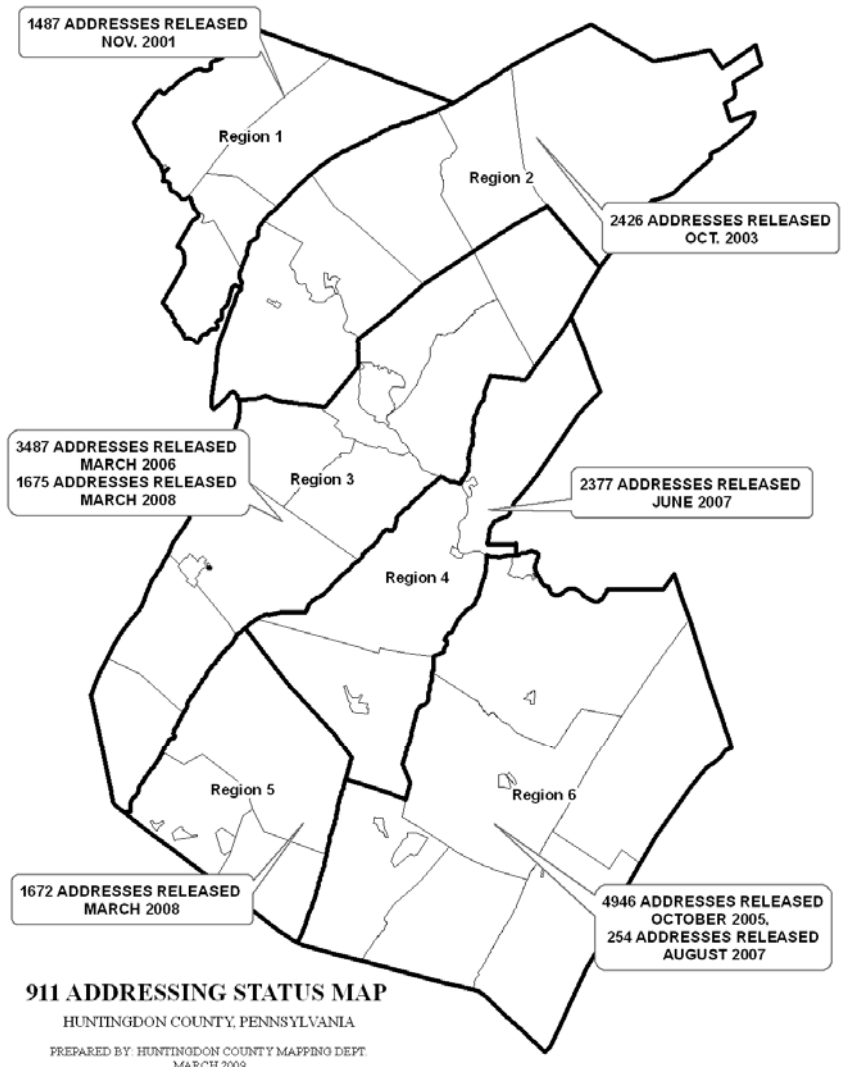
In 2008, Huntingdon County was administering grants totaling \$2,282,992. Tables on page 12 detail each miscellaneous grant awarded and CDBG usage and planned allocations.

911 AND RURAL ADDRESSING

March 2008 marked the completion of the Huntingdon County 911 Addressing Project. The last addresses were released by the Mapping Department in Hopewell, Lincoln,

Penn, Todd, Carbon, and Wood Townships, and Marklesburg, Coalmont, Dudley, and Broad Top City Boroughs. A total of 3,347 addresses were in the final release.

The release of these addresses completed a project that began in 2001 and included re-addressing of the entire County with the exception of four boroughs (Alexandria, Huntingdon, Mount Union, and Petersburg) where city-style addresses already existed. A total of 17,324 new addresses were released within the County.



Planning and Community Development Grant Summary

Miscellaneous Grants		
New Communities Program	2008 - Enterprise Zone Basic Grant	\$50,000
HOME Investment Partnership	2008 - Housing Rehabilitation	\$306,000
USDA Rural Utilities Service	2007 - Penn Township Sewer	\$772,000
Competitive CDBG	2007 - Penn Township Sewer	\$381,000
Emergency Shelter Grant	2007 - Huntingdon House	\$98,000
USDA Housing Preservation Grant	2007 - Emergency Moderate Home Repair	\$36,000
Pennsylvania Council on the Arts	2008 - Local Government Grant - Huntingdon County Arts Council	\$3,495
GGII County Environmental Initiative	2007 - Huntingdon County Conservation and Infrastructure Projects	\$1,000,000

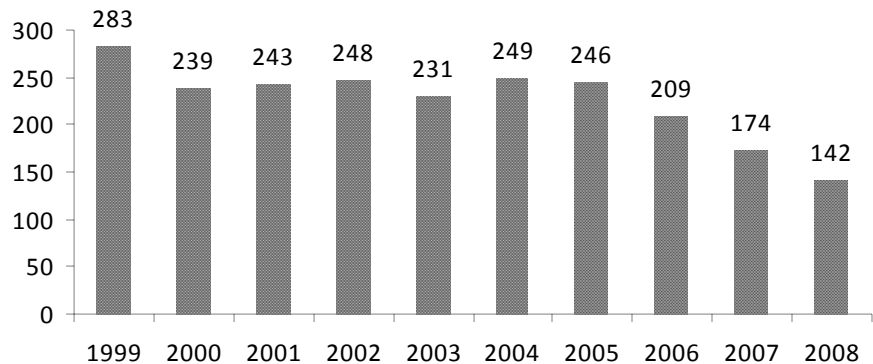
CDBG Usage—Past Three Years	2006	2007	2008
Fousetown Water & Sewer System **	\$2,500	0	0
Fousetown Lateral Rehab **	\$27,500	0	0
Puttstown Lateral Rehab *	\$10,833	0	0
Shirley Home for the Aged Heating System Upgrade	\$25,500	0	\$60,000
Shirley Home for the Aged Ramp Rehab **	\$11,000	0	0
Huntingdon County Main Library Accessibility **	\$29,005	0	0
Petersburg Sewer Pump Replacement	\$47,000	\$58,000	0
Mapleton Water Reservoir Street **/Railroad Street	\$20,000	0	\$20,000
Huntingdon House Baxter Shelter HVAC Upgrade *	\$49,500	0	0
Orbisonia-Rockhill Water Tank	0	\$166,807	0
Penn Township Sewer	0	0	\$50,000
Spring Creek Sewer System	0	0	\$30,000
Affordable Housing Sites	0	0	\$28,852
Past Three Years Totals	\$222,838	\$224,807	\$188,852
** activity complete * activity underway			
CDBG Usage - Next Three Years	2009	2010	2011
Huntingdon County Library	0	0	\$100,000
Dudley-Carbon-Coalmont Water Tank Rehabilitation	\$61,000	0	0
Rockhill Borough Stormwater	\$30,000	0	0
Mount Union Borough Building Phase I Accessibility	\$80,000	0	0
Mount Union Federal Drive	0	\$84,000	0
Cromwell Township Sewer Laterals	0	0	\$85,000
Mount Union Borough Building Phase II Accessibility	0	\$80,000	\$25,000
Mapleton Borough Revitalization	\$39,000	\$46,000	0
Next Three Years Totals	\$210,000	\$210,000	\$210,000

DATA MANAGEMENT AND ANALYSIS

Proper maintenance and implementation of the *Huntingdon County Comprehensive Plan* requires continuous data collection and analysis. Data collected by the Planning Staff includes:

- ◆ Building and Subdivision Activity
- ◆ Deed Transfers
- ◆ Municipal Contacts
- ◆ Municipal Land Use Ordinances
- ◆ Population and Socio-Economic Characteristics

SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY 1999 - 2008



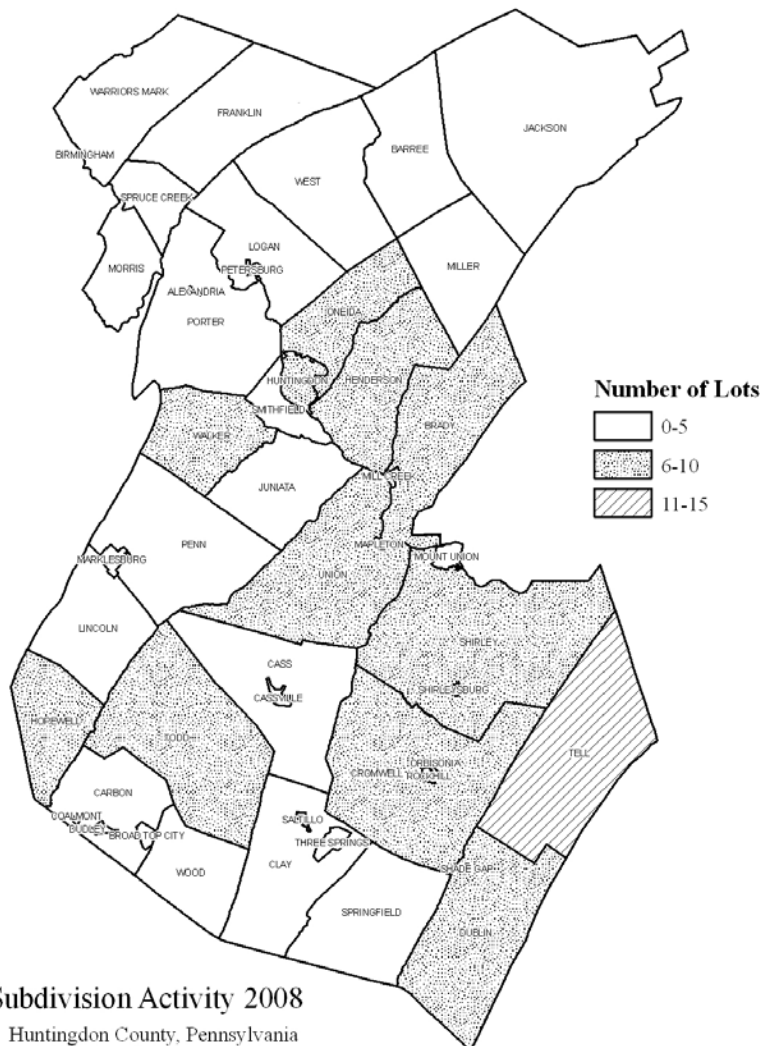
SUBDIVISION ACTIVITY

The number of new subdivision lots recorded indicates the level of land development occurring within the County. This information is valuable when determining the need for public services. Subdivision activity reflects the actual number of deeds recorded in the Courthouse (sale of lots) rather than the platting of lots referenced in the Coordination section.

During 2008, 142 new lots were recorded in Huntingdon County. This is a decrease of 18.4% from the 174 lots created in 2007.

In 2008, the highest level of activity, 11 new lots, occurred in Tell Township. The table below shows the highest levels in 2008 and the map on this page illustrates the intensity of development experienced in each municipality in 2008.

Municipality	New Lots
Tell Township	11
Dublin Township	9
Oneida Township	9
Union Township	9
Todd Township	8



Subdivision Activity 2008

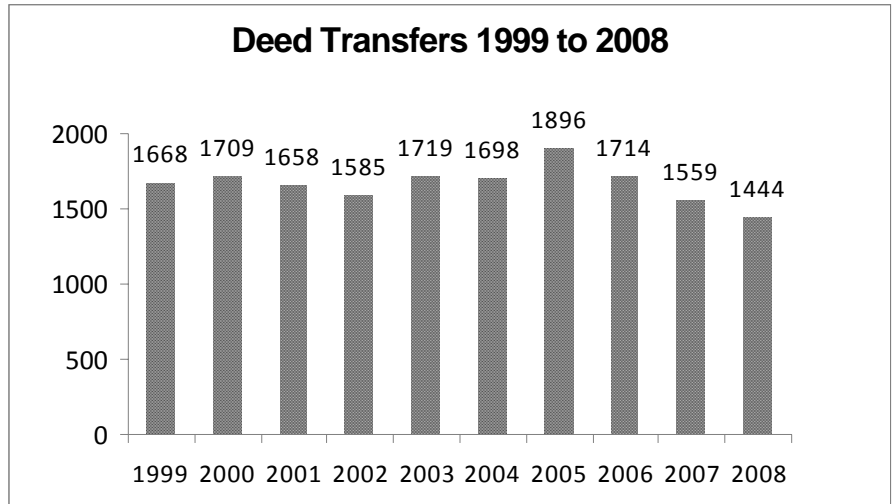
Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania

Prepared by: Huntingdon County Mapping Department
February 2009

DEED TRANSFERS

The number of deeds transferred for both new and existing properties is monitored as an indicator of the economic well being of the County. The chart on this page illustrates the number of deeds transferred over the past ten years.

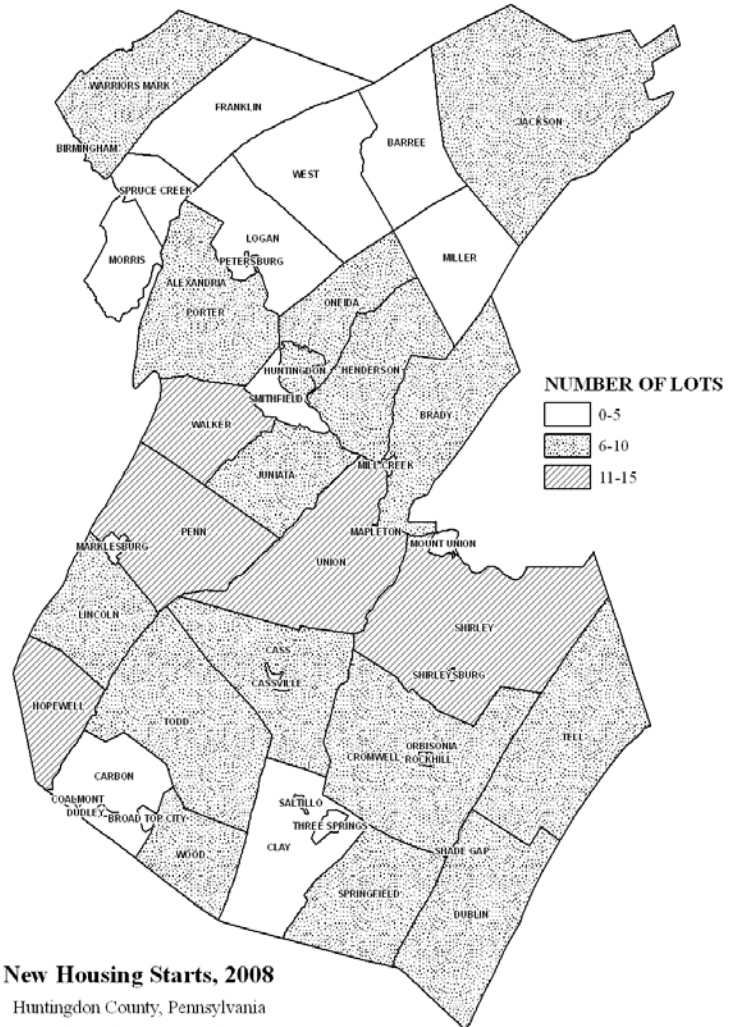
The Huntingdon County Register and Recorder's Office reported that the total number of deeds transferred in 2008, both existing and new, showed a 7.4% decrease from 1,559 in 2007 to 1,444 in 2008.



BUILDING ACTIVITY

In 2008, the construction of new houses increased 3.8% from 2007, with 189 versus 182 in 2007. The number of new houses constructed is estimated annually. The Department uses electrical permits, from Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, and building permits to estimate new housing starts. Year-round housing activity decreased by 5.3%, from 152 units in 2007 to 144 units in 2008.

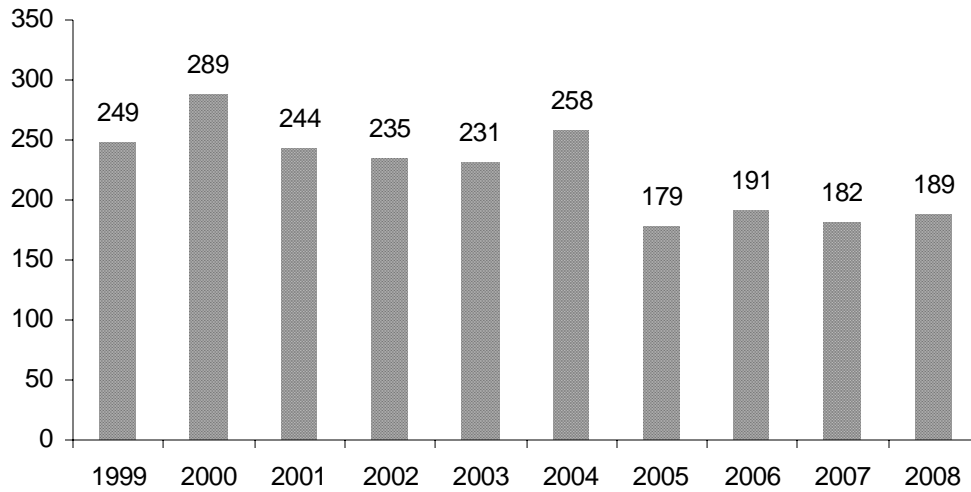
The map on this page illustrates the level of building activity in each municipality in 2008. A ten-year housing starts trend is illustrated in the chart on page 15. Following are the municipalities that led the County in new housing starts:



Municipality	New Homes
Shirley Township	18
Hopewell Township	14
Union Township	12
Walker Township	12
Penn Township	10
Warriors Mark Township	9
Todd Township	8
Cass Township	7
Dublin Township	7
Henderson Township	7
Springfield Township	7
Cromwell Township	6
Juniata Township	6

New Housing Starts, 2008
 Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania
 Prepared by: Huntingdon County Mapping Dept.
 February 2008

New Housing Starts 1999 to 2008



SEASONAL AND YEAR-ROUND HOUSING

Valley Rural data also allows a comparison between seasonal and year-round housing starts. Based on this data, 45 units, or 23.8% of all new housing activity in 2008 involved seasonal housing. This data reveals an increase of 50% from 30 seasonal units in 2007.

Mobile homes comprised 28%, or 35 units, of Valley Rural permits in 2008.

Following are the municipalities that led the County in seasonal and year-round housing starts:

Year Round Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Shirley Township	16
Walker Township	12
Warriors Mark Township	9
Penn Township	7
Union Township	7
Cass Township	6

Seasonal Housing: Municipality	New Homes
Hopewell Township	9
Lincoln Township	5
Union Township	5
Springfield Township	4
Todd Township	4

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*Resigned

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